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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

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SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

June 14, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents,  
Public School Academy Directors, Elementary School Principals, and  
District Assessment Coordinators

FROM: Vince Dean, Director, Office of Standards & Assessment; Bureau of  
Assessment and Accountability  
Susan Broman, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Great Start  
Thomas Howell, Director, Center for Educational Performance and  
Information

SUBJECT: Kindergarten Entry Assessment

In response to a new appropriation in the State School Aid Act related to Kindergarten Entry Assessment, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to announce a partnership among the Bureau of Assessment and Accountability (BAA), the Office of Great Start (OGS), and the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) to collaboratively develop and implement this important new assessment initiative in Michigan.

Since the passage in February 2012 of this legislation, BAA, OGS, and CEPI have been meeting weekly to develop a plan for the review, selection, and integration of a kindergarten entry assessment. This new assessment will include the same five domains as requested in Michigan's Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant application and will be consistent with the Position Paper of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Early Childhood Education State Collaborative on Assessment and Student Standards. Specifically, these domains are: a) language and literacy, b) mathematics, c) approaches toward learning, d) social-emotional development, and e) physical well-being and motor development.

In the upcoming summer months, MDE will send out an invitation to other states and to vendors to showcase their existing kindergarten entry assessments. BAA, OGS, CEPI, and external stakeholders will be involved in each of these showcase demonstrations. Upon completion of the showcases, a Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued, inviting other states and vendors to submit bids to cover one or more of the five domains for Michigan's Kindergarten Entry Assessment.

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All proposals received will be reviewed collaboratively by BAA, OGS, and CEPI to ensure that the assessment(s) selected meet the RFP requirements and best meet the needs of students, parents, schools, districts, ISDs, and the State, as well as integrate seamlessly with multiple, existing State data systems. Due to the five domains that will be included in Michigan's Kindergarten Entry Assessment, more than one tool may be selected to ensure that each is assessed well and the data integrated with existing BAA and CEPI systems.

Following selection of kindergarten entry assessment(s), BAA, OGS, and CEPI will begin the extensive process of working with the vendor(s) to make any revisions needed to ensure alignment and integration. An invitation to apply to participate in small-scale pilot testing of the kindergarten entry assessment will then be sent to educators across Michigan. This pilot project will include professional development on assessment administration and online data collection, as well as on use of the results to inform instruction and services. Following the successful completion of the pilot project, any needed revisions will be made to the system and/or process, and the following school year, a larger field test will be implemented including significantly more teachers and districts than the initial pilot.

The strong partnership of BAA, OGS, and CEPI, working in conjunction with early childhood stakeholders across Michigan, will ensure a Kindergarten Entry Assessment that provides Michigan with critical developmental information on our students as they begin their K-12 educational experience. This information will not only help inform instruction and programming, but also identify areas of need in regard to early childhood (pre-kindergarten) services.

In the beginning of the 2012-13 school year, another communication will be sent from BAA, OGS, and CEPI providing information on the work done during the summer months (e.g., kindergarten assessment spotlight demonstrations, issuing of the RFP, etc.) on the Kindergarten Entry Assessment. We currently anticipate selection of the kindergarten assessment(s) in early fall, and the invitation for kindergarten teachers to apply to be a pilot classroom for the kindergarten entry assessment system in early winter 2013.

If you have any questions at this time regarding the Kindergarten Entry Assessment, please contact the Bureau of Assessment and Accountability at [BAA@Michigan.gov](mailto:BAA@Michigan.gov).

cc: Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC)  
Michigan Education Alliance